

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9164

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2712

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E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CM, ACOM, US, UN

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO CAMEROONIAN AID REQUESTS

REFS: (A) YAOUNDE 2606, (B) YAOUNDE 2334

1. SEPTTEL REPORTS THAT I WILL REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO IN KEEPING WITH CORE GROUP CONSENSUS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON KOREAN ISSUE PRIOR TO COLOMBO NAC SUMMIT. TIMING OF THIS APPOINTMENT MAY CONCIDE WITH TIMING SUGGESTED FOR OUR PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO GURC AID REQUESTS, I.E., BETWEEN AUGUST 9 AND 12. REF A PROPOSED THAT THIS REPLY BE GIVEN TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY EBOUA, DESIGNATED BY AHIDJO TO CONDUCT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH US.

2. QUESTION ARISES WHETHER WE SHOULD DEAL WITH KOREAN AND PUERTO RICAN DEMARCHES AT SAME SESSION AS WITH REPLY TO AID REQUESTS. IF I DO GET TO SEE AHIDJO, HE SHOULD BE TOLD ABOUT BOTH. BUT SINCE WE HAVE BEEN THINKING OF WATTS STATION AS MAIN QUID PRO QUO FOR ADDITIONAL AID, INTERJECTION OF THE KOREAN ISSUE MIGHT REDUCE OUR BARGAINING POWER FOR GETTING WATTS APPROVAL. MOREOVER, AHIDJO TOLD GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT REGARDLESS OF NEW ARGUMENTS ON KOREA, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE CAMEROON'S UN VOTE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A QUESTION OF DIGNITY (REF B). CURRENT ISSUE IS NOT UN BUT NAC POSITION, AND WE COULD CONFINE OURSELVES TO ASKING FOR BETTER POSITION DURING NAC DELIBERATIONS, HINTING THAT WE GENERALLY FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER MEMBERS' STANCE FROM FRIENDLY MEMBERS.

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3. PREFERRED SCENARIO WOULD BE FOR ME TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON KOREA
ON BEHALF OF US AND CORE GROUP MEMBERS AND THEN, AFTER APPRO-
PRIATE PAUSE, GIVE RESPONSE TO AID REQUESTS, AVAILING OURSELVES
OF GURC'S DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO BE ISSUE SPECIFIC. WATTS RE-
QUEST COULD THEN BE MADE SOMEWHAT LATER, IN FIRST INSTANCE TO
EBOUA. WITHOUT DRIVING POINT HOME WITH A HAMMER, CAMEROONIANS
WOULD UNDERSTAND THE CONNECTION.
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